13,000 Hectares did not recover fully leading to some loss in the yield. As most of the area has recovered, no specific relief has been considered necessary.

**Export by STC**

1575. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has failed to boost exports through its official channels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the STC has found fit to export diamonds to Zale Corporation of the USA which deals mainly edible oil;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry to find out irregularities in the above deal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) STC has not made any export of diamonds to Zale Corporation.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Agency to provide Employment Abroad**

1576. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency to provide employment to the Indian workers who seek employment abroad; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to constitute a National Employment Board to promote employment abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Recruitment can be carried out either by the recruiting agencies or the State-owned Manpower Corporations registered with the Government. The Indian construction companies also recruit workers directly for executing projects abroad after obtaining permission to do so.

(b) No, Sir.

**Growth rate of employment during Sixth Plan period**

1577. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what was the growth rate of employment during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the rate of employment during the above period; if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) what was the backlog at the end of the Fifth Plan period; and

(d) what was the number of job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges at the end of 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) According to the Seventh Five Year Plan documents, the growth rate of employment during the Sixth Plan period was 4.32 per cent.

(c) The backlog of usual status unemployment was around 12 millions in the age group 5 and above.

(d) 26.3 millions job-seekers were registered with the Employment Exchanges at the end of 1985.

**Reopening of Hotel Siddharth**

1578. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management running the Hotel Siddharth in New Delhi, which was closed due to fire, has sought Government's permission to reopen the Hotel; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) According to